The following is a complete listing of the claims in this application, reflects all changes currently being made to the claims, and replaces all earlier versions and all earlier listings of the claims:

Claims 1 - 12. (canceled)

Claim 13. (new) A virtual space presentation apparatus comprising:

a virtual space image generation unit adapted to generate an image of a virtual space, according to a viewpoint position and a visual axis direction which are set in the virtual space;

a map image generation unit adapted to generate a map image representing a region around the viewpoint position, according to the viewpoint position and the visual axis direction;

a view image displaying unit adapted to display the generated image of the virtual space;

a map image displaying unit adapted to display the generated map image; and

a viewpoint position and visual axis direction input unit, which is used to operate the viewpoint position and the visual axis direction, and which is fixed in a position on said map image displaying unit.

14. (new) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said map image generation unit generates an image of a plan-view map that looks down the region around the viewpoint position from a position immediately above the viewpoint.

15. (new) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said map image generation unit generates the map image as a bird's eye view.

16. (new) The apparatus according to claim 13, wherein said viewpoint position and visual axis direction input unit is fixed in a position on a display screen of said map image displaying unit,

the position of said viewpoint position and visual axis direction input unit on the display screen is a viewpoint position of a map image displayed on the display screen, and

said map image displaying unit controls the viewpoint position and the visual axis direction, by scrolling a map image displayed on the display screen according to operation to said viewpoint position and visual axis direction input unit.

17. (new) The apparatus according to claim 13, said viewpoint position and visual axis direction input unit includes a trackball, a joystick, and a track pad.

18. (new) A virtual space display method comprising:

generating an image of a virtual space, according to a viewpoint position and a visual axis direction which are set in the virtual space;

generating a map image representing a region around the viewpoint position, according to the viewpoint position and the visual axis direction;

displaying the generated image of the virtual space by a view image displaying unit;

displaying the generated map image by a map image displaying unit; and

setting the viewpoint position and the visual axis direction, according to an instruction input from a viewpoint position and visual axis direction input unit fixed in a position on said map image displaying unit.

19. (new) A computer-readable storage medium storing a program for causing a computer execute a virtual space display method of claim 18.